

Appln No. 10/747,774
Amdt date June 2, 2010
Reply to Office action of March 2, 2010

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Final rejection dated March 2, 2010, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 10, 14-16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as allegedly anticipated by Eggers, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,047,700). In making this rejection, the Examiner asserts that Eggers discloses an elongated electrode having a length in the direction perpendicular to the distal tip of the probe body. Office action, page 4. To clarify this issue, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 3, 7 and 17 to recite that the tip electrode has an exposed *sidewall*, and that the tip electrode is configured to ablate tissue along the exposed *sidewall* to form a lesion. Eggers nowhere teaches or suggests such a configuration. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 3, 7 and 17, and all claims dependent therefrom, including claims 2, 10, 14-16 and 18, are allowable over Eggers.

The Examiner also rejected claims 3-9, 17 and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious over Eggers in view of either Alt (U.S. Patent No. 5,411,527) or Lucas, et al. (U.S. Patent NO. 5,795,332). However, independent claims 1, 3, 7 and 17 are allowable over Eggers, as discussed above. Neither Alt nor Lucas remedies the deficiencies of Eggers as Alt and Lucas, either alone or in combination with Eggers, fail to teach or suggest an elongated tip electrode having an exposed sidewall along which is positioned at least one irrigation opening through which fluid can pass, wherein the tip electrode is configured to ablate tissue along the exposed sidewall to form a lesion. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 3, 7 and 17, and all claims dependent therefrom, including claims 4-6 and 19-21, are allowable over Eggers, Alt and Lucas.

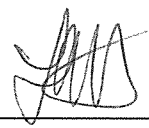
Finally, the Examiner objected to claims 11-13 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if amended to independent form. However, as base claim 1 is allowable, as discussed above, Applicant submits that claims 11-13 are also allowable. Applicant therefore respectfully requests withdrawal of this objection.

Claims 1-21 remain pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1, 3, 7 and 17 to place the claims in condition for allowance, and has amended claims 18-21 to be consistent with the amendments to base claims 1, 3, 7 and 17. The

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amendments find full support in the original specification, claims and drawings, and no new matter is presented. In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all of pending claims 1-21 are in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests reconsideration and a timely indication of allowance. However, if there are any remaining issues that can be addressed by telephone, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact Applicant's counsel at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,
CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By  _____
Lauren E. Schneider
Reg. No. 63,712
626/795-9900

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